

Message Text

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TO CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 094829

FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 3635 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI
ADDIS ABABA BANGKOK CANBERRA COLOMBO DACCA DAR ES SALAAM
ISLAMABAD JAKARTA JIDDA KABUL KATHMANDU KUALA LUMPUR KUWAIT
LISBON LONDON MOGADISCIO MOSCOW PARIS PORT LOUIS PRETORIA
RANGOON SANAA SINGAPORE TANANARIVE TEHRAN NEW DELHI TOKYO
WELLINGTON PEKING NATO GENEVA USUN NEW YORK BOMBAY CALCUTTA
HONG KONG MADRAS CINCPAC CINCUSNAVEUR CINCLANTFLT
COMIDEASTFOR DATED MAY 3.

QUOTE

S E C R E T NAIROBI 3635

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORAN MARR, PARM, US, XO, KE

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE INDIAN OCEAN

REF: NEW DELHI 5616; BANGKOK 7092 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE I AGREE WITH AMBASSADORS MOYNIHAN AND KINTNER ON NEED
TO DEFINE U.S. INTERESTS IN INDIAN OCEAN, I FEEL IT NECESSARY
O POINT OUT DIFFERENCE IN CURRENT CONDITIONS AND THINKING IN
KENYA VERSUS INDIA, THAILAND AND POSSIBLY OTHER LITTORAL STATES.
WHILE KENYA HAS PUBLICLY STATED (AS RECENTLY AS 22 APRIL BY
FONMIN MUNGAI AT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION) ADHERENCE TO ZONE OF PEACE
CONCEPT, THERE ARE DIFFERING OPINIONS WITHIN GOK ON THIS SUBJECT,

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WITH SOME, PARTICULARLY IN MINDEF, ACCEPTING US PRESENCE AS

DESIRABLE OFFSET TO SOVIET PRESENCE.

2. PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS LIMITED TO WAYS IN WHICH FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFFECT KENYA. QUESTION OF KENYA TAKING FIRM STAND ON INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES HAS NOT YET APPEARED TO KENYATTA AS AFFECTING NATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN KENYA. IF USG WERE TO DEBATE PEACE ZONE ISSUE PUBLICLY, THIS COULD WELL BE DERIMENTAL TO US INTERESTS IN KENYA, AS PRESSURES FAVORING SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES MIGHT STRENGTHEN HAND OF THOSE IN GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD LIMIT OR DENY USN SHIP VISITS. THIS EMBASSY'S PRESENT VIEW RE SHIP VISITS IS, IN FACT, THAT NUMBER OF SHIPS VISITING MOMBASA IN 1974 COULD BE DOUBLED OVER 1973, PROVIDED THAT PROFILE IS LOW AND THAT SUBJECT OF GOK'S VIEWS REGARDING SHIP VISITS IS NOT REPT NOT RAISED WITH GOK. PUBLIC DEBATE OF PEACE ZONE WOULD ONLY TEND TO RAISE USN PROFILE IN KENYA.

3. BELIEVE, MOREOVER, THAT TO SUGGEST DISCUSSION OF ZONE OF PEACE PUBLICLY WOULD BE TRANSPARENT AT THIS POINT IN TIME. HOWEVER, WAYS IN WHICH USG CAN PLACE MONKEY ON SOVIET BACK RE INDIAN OCEAN ISSUE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. FOR EXAMPLE, US COULD PROPOSE TO SOVIETS BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MUTUAL RESTRAINTS ON NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. IF SOVIETS WERE TO REJECT PROPOSAL, ONUS WOULD BE ON THEM; IF THEY WERE TO ACCEPT, BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS OSTENSIBLY AIMED AT REDUCING SUPERPOWER RIVALRY IN INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD SERVE TO UNDERCUT SOME ARGUMENTS OF ZONE OF PEACE ADVOCATES.

4. I COULDN'T AGREE MORE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN MANY WAYS IF WASHINGTON WERE TO SHARE POLICY RATIONALE ON AN ON-GOING BASIS WITH U.S. MISSIONS IN LITTORAL STATES, BUT RECOGNIZE THAT RATIONALE WE CAN IN TURN SHARE WITH LITTORAL STATES WILL BE LIMITED BY OUR OWN SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL AS BY LOCAL SENSITIVITIES AND IS NOT THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE "CONVINCING." THWS INHERENT WEAKNESS IN OUR PUBLIC POSTURE ON THIS ISSUE IS FURTHER REASON FOR USG TO AVOID PUBLIC DEBATE OR INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION OF ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL.

MARSHALL
UNQTE RUSH

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